



WAR ISLES



AP Exclusive: U.S. admiral says China fully militarized isles

Admiral John C. Aquilino, left, Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM), looks at videos of Chinese structures and buildings on board a US P-8A Poseidon reconnaissance plane flying at the Spratlys group of islands in the South China Sea on Sunday March 20, 2022.

Associated Press
Page 2

TGI FRIDAYS

\$9.99 Big Breakfast

AVAILABLE ALL DAY

IN HERE, IT'S ALWAYS FRIDAY®

Located in Paseo Herencia Shopping Center | Walking distance from high rise hotels

casa del mar beach resort

READY TO START YOUR DREAM?

contact us now for a viewing at one of our renovated suites

sales@casadelmar-aruba.net +297-582-7000 Ext. 614

AP Exclusive: U.S. admiral says China fully militarized isles

From Front

By **JIM GOMEZ and AARON FAVILA**

Associated Press

OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA (AP) — China has fully

militarized at least three of several islands it built in the disputed South China Sea, arming them with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile systems, laser and jamming equipment, and fighter jets in an increasingly aggressive move that threatens all nations operating nearby, a top U.S. military commander said Sunday.

U.S. Indo-Pacific commander Adm. John C. Aquilino said the hostile actions were in stark contrast to Chinese President Xi Jinping's past assurances that Beijing would not transform the artificial islands in contested waters into military bases. The efforts were part of China's flexing its military muscle, he said.

"I think over the past 20 years we've witnessed the largest military buildup since World War II by the PRC," Aquilino told The Associated Press in an interview, using the initials of China's formal name. "They have advanced all their capabilities and that buildup of weaponization is destabilizing to the region." There were no immediate comments from Chinese officials. Beijing maintains

its military profile is purely defensive, arranged to protect what it says are its sovereign rights. But after years of increased military spending, China now boasts the world's second-largest defense budget after the U.S. and is rapidly modernizing its force with weapons systems including the J-20 stealth fighter, hypersonic missiles and two aircraft carriers, with a third under construction.

Aquilino spoke with the AP onboard a U.S. Navy reconnaissance aircraft that flew near Chinese-held outposts in the South China Sea's Spratly archipelago, one of the most hotly contested regions in the world. During the patrol, the P-8A Poseidon plane was repeatedly warned by Chinese callers that it illegally entered what they said was China's territory and ordered the plane to move away.

"China has sovereignty over the Spratly islands, as well as surrounding maritime areas. Stay away immediately to avoid misjudgment," one of the stern radio messages said in a veiled threat.

But the U.S. Navy plane dismissed the multiple warnings and pressed on defiantly with its reconnaissance in brief but tense moments witnessed by two AP journalists invited onboard. "I am a sover-

eign immune United States naval aircraft conducting lawful military activities beyond the national airspace of any coastal state," a U.S. pilot radioed back to the Chinese. "Exercising these rights is guaranteed by international law and I am operating with due regard to the rights and duties of all states," he said.

Navy commanding officer Joel Martinez, who led the P-8A Poseidon's crew, said there has been an incident when a Chinese jet flew close to a U.S. aircraft in a dangerous maneuver in the disputed region. The U.S. flight crew calmly reminded the Chinese to comply with aviation safety regulations, he said.

As the P-8A Poseidon flew as low as 15,000 feet (4,500 meters) near the Chinese-occupied reefs, some appeared to be like small cities on screen monitors, with multi-story buildings, warehouses, hangars, sea-ports, runways and white round structures Aquilino said were radars. Near Fiery Cross, more than 40 unspecified vessels could be seen apparently anchored. Aquilino said the construction of missile arsenals, aircraft hangars, radar systems and other military facilities on Mischief Reef, Subi Reef and Fiery Cross appeared to have been completed but it remains



This combo photo shows Chinese structures taken Feb. 8, 1999, top, and March 20, 2022, at the Mischief Reef in the disputed South China Sea.

Associated Press

to be seen if China will pursue the construction of military infrastructure in other areas.

"The function of those islands is to expand the offensive capability of the PRC beyond their continental shores," he said. "They can fly fighters, bombers plus all those offensive capabilities of missile systems." He said any military and ci-

vilian plane flying over the disputed waterway could easily get within range of the Chinese islands' missile system.

"So that's the threat that exists, that's why it's so concerning for the militarization of these islands," he said. "They threaten all nations who operate in the vicinity and all the international sea and airspace." □



Anne Neuberger, Deputy National Security Advisor for Cyber and Emerging Technology, speaks during a press briefing at the White House, Monday, March 21, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **ALAN SUDERMAN**

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — President Joe Biden is urging U.S. companies

to make sure their digital doors are locked tight because of "evolving intelligence" that Russia is considering launching cyber-

Biden warns U.S. companies of potential Russian cyberattacks

attacks against critical infrastructure targets as the war in Ukraine continues. Biden's top cybersecurity aide, Anne Neuberger, expressed frustration at a White House press briefing Monday that some critical infrastructure entities have ignored alerts from federal agencies to fix known problems in software that could be exploited by Russian hackers.

"Notwithstanding these repeated warnings, we continue to see adversaries compromising systems that use known vulnera-

bilities for which there are patches," said Neuberger, who is the president's deputy national security adviser for cyber and emerging technologies.

"That makes it far easier for attackers than it needs to be."

The federal government has been providing warnings to U.S. companies of the threats posed by Russian state hackers since long before the country invaded Ukraine last month. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has launched a "Shields

Up" campaign aimed at helping companies strengthen their defenses and has urged companies to back up their data, turn on multifactor authentication and take other steps to improve cyber hygiene. Neuberger said there's no intelligence suggesting a specific Russian cyberattack against U.S. targets, but she did add that there has been increase in "preparatory activity," like scanning websites and hunting for vulnerabilities, that is common among nation-state hackers. □

U.S. says Myanmar repression of Muslim Rohingya is genocide

By BEN FOX

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Violent repression of the largely Muslim Rohingya population in Myanmar amounts to genocide, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday, a declaration intended to both generate international pressure and lay the groundwork for potential legal action.

Authorities made the determination based on confirmed accounts of mass atrocities on civilians by Myanmar's military in a widespread and systematic campaign against the ethnic minority, Blinken said in a speech at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. It is the eighth time since the Holocaust that the U.S. has concluded a genocide has occurred. The secretary of state noted the importance of calling attention to inhumanity even as horrific attacks occur elsewhere in the world, including Ukraine.

"Yes, we stand with the people of Ukraine," he said. "And we must also stand with people who are suffering atrocities in other places."

The government of Myanmar, also known as Burma, is already under multiple layers of U.S. sanctions since a military coup ousted the democratically elected government in February 2021. Thousands



Secretary of State Antony Blinken tours the "Burma's Path To Genocide" exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Monday, March 21, 2022 in Washington.

Associated Press

of civilians throughout the country have been killed and imprisoned as part of ongoing repression of anyone opposed to the ruling junta.

The determination that a genocide has occurred could lead other nations to increase pressure on the government, which is already facing accusations of genocide at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

"As we lay the foundation for future accountability, we're also working to stop the military's ongoing atrocities, and support the people of Burma as they

strive to put the country back on the path to democracy," Blinken said.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Blinken's announcement "emphasizes, especially to victims and survivors, that the United States recognizes the gravity of these crimes."

"Our view is that shining a light on the crimes of Burma's military will increase international pressure, make it harder for them to commit further abuses," she said.

Rohingya, from Muslim Myanmar's western Rakhine state, faced systematic persecution at the hands

of the Buddhist majority for decades under both the military junta that ruled the nation for decades as well as the democratically-elected government.

More than 700,000 Rohingya have fled from Buddhist-majority Myanmar to refugee camps in Bangladesh since August 2017, when the military launched an operation aimed at clearing them from the country following attacks by a rebel group.

The status of the plight of the Rohingya had been under extended review by U.S. government legal experts since the Trump ad-

ministration, given potential legal ramifications of such a finding. The delay in the determination had drawn criticism from both inside and outside the government.

"While this determination is long overdue, it is nevertheless a powerful and critically important step in holding this brutal regime to account," said Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley.

Human rights groups also welcomed the determination, which is similar to findings already made by other countries, including Canada, France and Turkey. "The U.S. determination of the crime of genocide against us is a momentous moment and must lead to concrete action to hold the Burmese military accountable for their crimes," said Tun Khin, president of the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK. Human Rights Watch said the U.S. and other governments should seek justice for crimes carried out by the military and impose stronger sanctions against its leadership.

"The U.S. government should couple its condemnations of Myanmar's military with action," said John Sifton, the group's Asia advocacy director. "For too long, the U.S. and other countries have allowed Myanmar's generals to commit atrocities with few real consequences." □

Workers go on strike at California refinery owned by Chevron

RICHMOND, California (AP)

— More than 500 workers at a Chevron Corp. refinery in the San Francisco Bay Area went on strike early Monday over safety concerns and to demand a salary increase to keep up with inflation and the area's high cost of living.

The strike affecting the refinery in the city of Richmond began at 12:01 a.m. It came after workers voted down Chevron's most recent contract offer and the company refused to return to the bargaining table, the United Steelworkers

union said. Chevron said in a statement Sunday night that it has negotiated with the union for months and believes a contract offered by the company was fair and addressed union concerns.

The union said it had negotiated a national agreement for oil workers on wages and working conditions, but about 200 individual bargaining units still had to negotiate local issues.

USW Local 5 representative B.K. White, a refinery operator who has worked for the company for 29 years, said

Chevron failed to address worker fatigue and a lack of staffing.

"If we had more people and could get a better pay rate, maybe our members wouldn't feel obligated to come in and work as many as 70 hours a week to make ends meet. We don't believe that is safe," White said.

Chevron said that in Richmond, the union's demands "exceeded what the company believes to be reasonable and moved beyond what was agreed to as part of the national



Operators holds up picket signs and acknowledge honking horns outside the Chevron Corp. refinery, Monday, March 21, 2022, in Richmond, Calif.

Associated Press

pattern bargaining agreement."

The company offered a 2.5% pay increase, but the

union had asked for 5% to keep up with inflation and cost of living in the Bay Area, White said. □

Brother: Man shot by deputy struggled with mental illness

MICHELLE LIU

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The brother of a Black man shot to death by a deputy in South Carolina over the weekend says he begged the deputy not to shoot and warned of the man's mental health issues beforehand.

Authorities have said deputies were responding to a domestic violence call when 34-year-old Irvin D. Moorner Charley advanced upon them with a wooden stake outside a Columbia home Saturday, and an attempt to use a stun gun failed to stop him from charging at an officer.

Moorner Charley's brother, Ivan Charley, spoke to The Associated Press on Monday and said he was outside when the first deputy arrived. Ivan Charley says he told the deputy — identified by authorities as John Anderson — that his brother was having a mental health crisis, and asked him not to shoot.

Ivan Charley said his brother was not a threat to family members when the deputies arrived, adding he was only holding a stake. Moore Charley was advancing so slowly that deputies could have used other methods to subdue him, his brother argued.

"He was still alive, but y'all killed him because he had



In this image from the body camera video of Richland County Sheriff's Deputy John Anderson, Irvin D. Moorner Charley, 34, holds a piece of wood as he walks towards Anderson, who is backpedaling, in Columbia, S.C.

a stick in his hand," Ivan Charley said. "It's a stick. ... It's still wood, and it's not made of bullets."

A second deputy, later identified by authorities as Zachary Hentz, arrived and immediately approached with his gun up and pointed toward the house, Charley said.

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott defended the deputies' actions in a Sunday news conference, noting that the deputies were protecting themselves in a dangerous situation. Multiple people had said Moorner Charley had injured them and said Moorner Charley

was inside with a knife, Lott said.

The sheriff's office released a short clip of body camera video where Anderson repeatedly yells at Moorner Charley to "Drop the weapon!" as Moorner Charley walks toward the deputy, who is slowly backpedaling. The sheriff's department has declined to release the entire video to the public, but the sheriff said he would play it for the prosecutor, the department's citizen advisory board and for the family. Attorneys for Moorner Charley's relatives said they were scheduled to view

the full body camera footage Monday.

Richland County Coroner Naida Rutherford said deputies tried to use a stun gun but it did not stick to Moorner Charley's skin. Lott said that immediately after that, Moorner Charley charged Hentz, who shot him four times.

"It was a very close encounter," Lott said, saying Hentz kept shooting until Moorner Charley dropped to the ground, and that the last shot was from less than 3 feet (1 meter) away. He said deputies tried to resuscitate Moorner Charley until an ambulance arrived.

An incident report filed by an officer who arrived after the shooting says that a person who called 911 said Moorner Charley was assaulting her mother and that he had a knife.

Ivan Charley also disputed that account, saying no knife was ever involved. He said his brother had become agitated and fought with family members inside their mother's house but had already calmed down by the time the deputies arrived.

But when he saw the deputies, Moorner Charley picked up the wooden stake and slowly walked out of the house into the yard, Ivan Charley said.

Ivan Charley spoke Monday from the yard of his mother's home, where it had all taken place.

Moorner Charley led a life complicated by mental illness that contributed to the frequent fights he had with his family, his younger brother said.

"We loved to fight each other but we loved each other. That's all I know," Ivan Charley said.

The police were often called, said Ivan Charley. But in prior instances, officers never exited the car with their guns drawn, instead talking to Moorner Charley "with common sense" and sometimes giving him rides elsewhere. □



Jared Calvert exits the former Ranger Law Enforcement Center in Ranger, Texas Friday March 18, 2022.

Associated Press

EASTLAND, Texas (AP) — Wildfires continued to scorch parts of Texas on Monday, and a storm sys-

tem moving through could bring much-needed rain but also strong winds, forecasters said.

Rain finally in forecast for Texas areas scorched by fires

The fires were already blamed for the deaths of two firefighters — one in Texas and one in Oklahoma. The largest of the fires, known as the Eastland Complex, had burned nearly 85 square miles (220 square kilometers) in an area around 120 miles (193 kilometers) west of Dallas and was 30% contained as of Sunday.

National Weather Service meteorologist Monique Sellers told The Dallas Morning News that about an inch (2.5 centimeters) of rain was predicted Monday in Eastland County.

"The rain will relieve how dry it is in those grassy areas prone to fires," she said. "Unfortunately, Monday is the only day we're seeing any rain for the foreseeable future, and the windy days will continue."

Another fire prompted evacuations of several small towns in Hood County, about 75 miles (121 kilometers) southwest of Dallas. That blaze, known as the Big L fire, had burned about 9 square miles (23 square kilometers) and was 5% contained.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Friday that 50 homes

had been destroyed.

In southwest Oklahoma on Sunday, a 55-year-old firefighter died after becoming separated from her vehicle while fighting a wildfire, officials said. The cause of death for April Partridge, who was with the community of Edgewater Park's volunteer fire department, will be determined by the state medical examiner's office, officials said.

And in Texas, Deputy Sgt. Barbara Fenley died last week while going door-to-door telling residents to evacuate, authorities said. □

EU slams 'war crimes' in Ukraine but new sanctions unlikely

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union countries on Monday accused Russia's military of committing war crimes in Ukraine, but appeared unlikely to impose new sanctions on Moscow despite a clamor across Europe for those responsible for attacks on civilians to be held to account.

With civilian deaths mounting in the besieged Ukrainian port city of Mariupol, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock highlighted the increase in Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and theaters.

The "courts will have to decide, but for me these are clearly war crimes," Baerbock said.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said before he chaired a meeting of the 27-nation bloc's foreign ministers in Brussels that "what's happening in Mariupol is a massive war crime. Destroying everything, bombarding and killing everybody in an indiscriminate manner. This is something awful."

The encircled southern city on the Sea of Azov has seen some of the worst horrors of the war. City officials said at least 2,300 people have



Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, left, shares a word with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock at a meeting of the EU foreign ministers at the Europa building in Brussels, Monday, Mar. 21, 2022.

died in the siege, with some buried in mass graves. City authorities say about 10% of the city's population of 430,000 have fled and reported that some residents were forced to go into Russia against their will.

Borrell underlined that "war also has law." The International Criminal Court in the Netherlands is gathering evidence about any possible war crimes in Ukraine, but Russia, like the United States, doesn't recognize the tribunal's jurisdiction.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said his country is "certainly open to other mechanisms for accountability in terms of the atrocities that are taking place in Ukraine right now." Coveney said Russia's invasion of Ukraine is probably the first "war being played out on social media, where people see images happening live, and they're outraged by it."

"This is driving a fury across the European Union within the public as to why can't

we stop this," he told reporters. "They want people held to account for the decisions taken and the brutality that we have seen." Still, the imposition of a new round of EU sanctions on Russia asset freezes and travel bans appears unlikely for now. Notorious for their often slow response to fast-moving international events, EU nations have rallied in just over three weeks since the invasion began on Feb. 24 to slap sanctions on hundreds of people.

They include Russian President Vladimir Putin, senior ministers and pro-Kremlin oligarchs.

Several "entities" companies, banks, airlines and ship builders have also been hit in near record time. But the issue of imposing restrictive measures on Russian energy remains extremely sensitive, given the dependence of many EU countries on Russian natural gas. A group of countries led by Germany wants a pause on new sanctions for now, amid concerns about high energy prices and fears that Russia might halt gas exports to Europe. Some also want to save sanction ammunition for any new and major war atrocity, like the use of chemical weapons. "We are doing everything to close loopholes in the sanctions" that have already been agreed, Baerbock said.

But Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis, whose country borders Russia and Belarus, warned against "sanctions fatigue." "We cannot get tired imposing sanctions. We cannot get tired, offering assistance and help to Ukraine," he said. Landsbergis said the EU must target oil, which is a major source of revenue for Russia. □

Associated Press

Taliban announcement a clear sign girls returning to school

By KATHY GANNON

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Schools for all students will open this week, Afghanistan's Taliban-run Education Ministry announced Monday in the clearest sign yet that girls will be allowed back in school.

Girls have been denied education beyond Grade 6 since the Taliban swept back into power last August.

The international community has been relentless in urging Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to allow girls to return to school.

Earlier this year, the new rulers opened up universities for women, although classes are gender segregated. They also promised girls

would be allowed to return to classes in all grades following the Afghan new year, which was being celebrated Monday.

The statement said classes will start Wednesday.

The ministry statement does not refer specifically to girls but it says: "The education ministry assures the nation it is committed to the right to education of all its citizens." The statement says the ministry is also "working hard to eliminate all kinds of discrimination," without elaborating. It urges all Afghans to send their children to schools or madrassas, which are religious educational facilities.

The Taliban rulers have not imposed restriction on the types of courses that wom-

en attending university can take. But music, which had previously been taught, is no longer available. While the Taliban have not banned music and musicians have occasionally appeared on local TV, music is frowned upon by the hard-line religion-driven rulers.

When they last ruled, music was banned, girls were denied education and women were not allowed to work and were required to wear the all encompassing burqa. The Taliban were ousted in 2001 by a U.S.-led coalition.

After sweeping back into power last August following America's chaotic end to 20 years of war in Afghanistan, a nervous internation-

al community watched as Taliban sent women home from work and closed public universities in all but 10 provinces. They allowed only boys to attend school beyond Grade 7.

The Taliban have not re-imposed the burqa, though women are required to wear the hijab, which can be any covering including a large shawl provided the head is covered. □



Afghan girls students attend school classes in a primary school in Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, March 27, 2021.

Associated Press

Chinese airliner crashes with 132 aboard in country's south

By **KEN MORITSUGU**

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A China Eastern Boeing 737-800 with 132 people on board crashed in a remote mountainous area of southern China on Monday, officials said, setting off a forest fire visible from space in the country's worst air disaster in nearly a decade.

More than seven hours after communication was lost with the plane, there was still no word of survivors.

The Civil Aviation Administration of China said in a statement that the crash occurred near the city of Wuzhou in the Guangxi region. The flight was traveling from Kunming in the southwestern province of Yunnan to the industrial center of Guangzhou along the east coast, it added.

China Eastern flight 5735 had been traveling 455 knots (523 mph, 842 kph) at around 30,000 feet when it entered a steep dive around 2:20 p.m. local time, according to data from flight-tracking website FlightRadar24.com. The plane stopped transmitting data 96 seconds later.

Local villagers were first to arrive at the forested area where the plane went down and sparked a blaze big enough to be seen on NASA satellite images. Hundreds of rescue work-



In this photo taken by mobile phone released by Xinhua News Agency, a piece of wreckage of the China Eastern's flight MU5735 are seen after it crashed on the mountain in Tengxian County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Monday, March 21, 2022.

Associated Press

ers were swiftly dispatched from Guangxi and neighboring Guangdong province. The plane was carrying 123 passengers and nine crew members, the CAAC said, correcting earlier reports that 133 people had been on board.

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for an "all-out effort" by the rescue operation, as well as for an investigation into the crash and to ensure complete civil aviation safety.

State media reported all 737-800s in China Eastern's fleet were ordered ground-

ed. Aviation experts said it is unusual to ground an entire fleet of planes unless there is evidence of a problem with the model.

Boeing 737-800s have been flying since 1998, and Boeing has sold more than 5,100 of them. They have been involved in 22 accidents that totaled the planes and killed 612 people, according to data compiled by the Aviation Safety Network, an arm of the Flight Safety Foundation.

"There are thousands of them around the world. It's

certainly had an excellent safety record," the foundation's president, Hassan Shahidi, said of the 737-800. China's air-safety record has improved since the 1990s as air travel has grown dramatically with the rise of a burgeoning middle class. Before Monday, the last fatal crash of a Chinese airliner occurred in August 2010, when an Embraer ERJ 190-100 operated by Henan Airlines hit the ground short of the runway in the northeastern city of Yichun and caught fire. All 44 people on board

were killed. Investigators blamed pilot error.

Aviation experts said they expect that China will ask the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board for help, although a safety board spokesman said Monday that had not happened yet. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, which certified the 737-800 in the 1990s, said it was ready to help in the investigation if asked. Crash investigations are usually led by officials in the country where the crash occurred, but they typically include the airplane's manufacturer and the investigator or regulator in the manufacturer's home country.

Shahidi said he expects investigators to comb through the maintenance history of the plane and its engines, the training and records of the pilots, air traffic control discussions and other topics.

Chicago-based Boeing Co. said it was aware of reports of the crash and was trying to gather more information. Boeing shares fell more than 4% in afternoon trading in New York.

Headquartered in Shanghai, China Eastern is one of the country's top three airlines, operating scores of domestic and international routes serving 248 destinations. □

Anti-corruption Guatemalan judge resigns and flees to the U.S.

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — A Guatemalan judge con-

sidered key in fighting corruption announced her

resignation on Monday and that she has decided to leave the Central American country.

Judge Erika Aifán has presided over corruption cases against businessmen, officials, judges and lawmakers, and she was recently overseeing an investigation about alleged irregularities during current President Alejandro Giammattei's campaign. She has been pursued by her own colleagues and she faces at least 20 legal complaints for allegedly overstepping, something she denies.

"They left me no other option," she said to The Associated Press on a phone

conversation from Washington, where she fled.

Aifán is the latest case of other Guatemalan judges and prosecutors who have left the country in recent months after the government had started investigations or even looking to arrest those who oversee corruption cases.

Aifán said she had felt particular pressure from Guatemalan Attorney General Consuelo Porras, whose visa was canceled by the U.S. government because of corruption concerns.

"She has manipulated the Prosecutor's office, prosecuting those of us who have worked to fight

against impunity and corruption," Aifán said.

One of Aifán's most recent cases was an investigation about alleged illegal funding to Giammattei's presidential campaign in 2019. The President has denied any wrongdoing.

The U.N. and the U.S. government had criticized and condemned in the past what they have considered "harassment" of the judge. In July 2021, the U.S. government announced the suspension of its cooperation with Guatemala's Attorney General's Office in response to the firing of its then top anti-corruption prosecutor. □



Guatemalan judge for high risk crimes Erika Aifan poses for a photo at her courtroom in Guatemala City, Nov. 8, 2019.

Associated Press

Saudi Arabia says it's not responsible for high oil prices

By ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

Saudi Arabia said on Monday that it "won't bear any responsibility" for a shortage in global oil supplies after a fierce barrage of attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels affected production in the kingdom, the world's largest oil exporter.

The unusually stark warning marked a departure from the giant oil producer's typically cautious statements, as Saudi officials remain aware that even their smallest comments can swing the price of oil and rattle global markets.

The salvo of rebel attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities marked a serious escalation in the war, which erupted in 2014 when the Iran-backed Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north. Saudi Arabia and its allies responded with a devastating air campaign to dislodge the Houthis and restore the internationally recognized government. Seven years later, the conflict has turned into a bloody stalemate and



A photographer takes pictures of the Khurais oil field during a tour for journalists, 150 km east-northeast of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, June 28, 2021.

spawned the worst humanitarian disaster in the world. The state-run Saudi Press Agency quoted the Saudi Foreign Ministry as saying that the kingdom "declares that it will not bear any responsibility for any shortage in oil supplies to global markets in light of the attacks on its oil facilities."

The announcement comes as the kingdom remains in

lockstep with OPEC and other oil-producing countries in a deal limiting production increases. Gulf Arab oil producers have so far resisted pressure from the Biden administration to pump more crude to help bring down oil prices that have soared amid Russia's war on Ukraine.

Already, gasoline prices have hit record highs

around the world. Gas prices in the U.S. topped \$4.25 on Monday, according to auto club AAA, just below the historic record of \$4.33 reached earlier this month. "The international community must assume its responsibility to preserve energy supplies," the Saudi statement added, in order to deter attacks that jeopardize "the kingdom's pro-

duction capability and its ability to fulfill its commitments."

The international oil benchmark Brent crude hovered over \$112 a barrel in trading Monday, up more than 4% for the preceding session. The price remained below a peak of nearly \$140 hit earlier this month, but still some \$15 a barrel more than before the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The overall extent of damage at the installations remained unclear. The Saudi Energy Ministry acknowledged a temporary drop in oil output at the 400,000-barrel-a-day Yanbu site, without elaborating. The government condemned the attacks as a threat to the security of global oil supplies "in these extremely sensitive circumstances." Even before Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, global energy supplies were struggling to keep pace with surging post-pandemic demand. The West's punitive sanctions on Moscow, among the world's largest oil producers and exporters, unleashed more turmoil on the market. □

Associated Press

Iran leader signals support for nuke talks at critical stage

By AMIR VAHDAT

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) —

Iran's supreme leader on Monday signaled support for Tehran's nuclear negotiations to secure sanctions relief, a rare reference to the still-halted talks as world powers near a diplomatic turning point. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei stressed the importance of Iranian economic self-sufficiency during a lengthy televised speech on the occasion of Nowruz, the Persian New Year. But he quickly added: "I do not say that you should not seek to lift the sanctions. Those who are trying and working in that field, there is no problem."

Khamenei, whose pronouncements are considered vital as he has the final say on all state matters in Iran, has remained largely

silent on the negotiations to restore Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. His vague but supportive comments signaled that Iranian negotiators retained political space and flexibility. Former President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear accord in 2018. President Joe Biden promised to revive it. Pains-taking talks in Vienna have dragged on for the past year. Iran, its economy strangled, has urged sanctions relief but sought to resist tough Western demands.

Negotiations nearly reached completion earlier this month before Moscow demanded that its trade with Iran be exempted from Western sanctions over Ukraine, throwing the process into disarray. Negotiators have yet to reconvene

in the Austrian capital, and it's unclear exactly what hurdles lie ahead.

"The essence of the issue is to run the country in such a way that sanctions cannot hit the country seriously," Khamenei said, praising the hard-line government of President Ebrahim Raisi for boosting Iran's trade with its neighbors and shipping Iranian crude abroad despite sanctions. "There is another way for us to use oil revenues for the country's infrastructure."

In his remarks, Khamenei also weighed in on Russia's war in Ukraine — echoing some of President Vladimir Putin's talking points without ever mentioning Russia at all.

"You look at Ukraine, its president who was appointed by Western governments, what a sharp



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a televised New Year speech, in Tehran, Iran, Monday, March 21, 2022.

Associated Press

tone he now uses to address the West," Khamenei said, extolling Iran's resistance to foreign interference and military development since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. "The choice of our nation was not surren-

der to arrogance, it was resistance, it was maintaining independence."


Iran generally considers Russia an ally and feels united with Putin's anti-American and anti-Western stances. □

Fit2fly COVID-19 Testing Center

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

**NAAT (Abott ID):
Result in 30 minutes!**

**PCR / Antigen Test
SAME DAY RESULT!**



MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630
info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: **The Cove Mall** (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM) **Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott** (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)

Over a decade in business, Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch

NOORD — We are in 2022. It's been a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to "live" life again. "It is time for living your dream," as the quote says at Aruba Living Today's office. "We are ten plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true," says owner Randolph Arends.

Tempting times

Do you remember the feeling as a kid, when you went to the store with your mom and the baker gave you a sweet roll, the butcher a slice of ham and they all took time to talk to each other? That time when doing groceries on a Saturday meant fun, making friends, and creating connections. To be fully aware in the moment and

enjoying the time together sounds like a controversy today. Everything is efficient, there's no-time-to-waste and while doing one task the mind is already thinking ahead to what is next on your to-do list. Did Covid-19 teach us anything? Weren't we telling each other during the lockdown that we would pay more attention to each other? Wasn't the message that health and happiness is so much more valuable than hitting targets and implement to-do tasks? The pandemic prevents us from connecting physically. Tight hugs and shaking hands firmly are no longer a natural thing. We live in a world of face masks hides smiles, and hands are sanitized after each touch. This is not who we are. We are in search for connection.

From human to human

If you have decided to buy a house or rent one for vacation in Aruba and you are looking for that match, the question now is how to click with a person that of-



fers a personal touch? One who pays genuine attention and has sincere interest in what you want? This different approach to real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart, and the reason Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I can only do this from the heart."

One stop shopping point

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Randolph and his business partner Berend Prenger are a fantastic, experienced duo, each of them specialists in the field. Berend is also a certified appraiser within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. "This definitely speeds up the process of buying," Prenger adds.

You are welcome to meet in person

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles,

Buddha ornaments and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch."

Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buyers and 60 % foreign buyers. "Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that, Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers. As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association, they are listed also on the website www.arubalisting.com within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island. Aruba Living Today is featured on House Hunters, social media, Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper. □

Aruba Living Today
Tankileendert 291, Aruba
Tel +297 587 9987
Fax +297 587 9985
Cell +297 593 9177
Mail randolph@livingtoday.aw





Sunset Grille
PRIME STEAKHOUSE

★★★★★

OPEN 5:30PM - 10:30PM
Reservations: +297 526 6612 | hiltonconciierge@depalmtours.com

Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 81, Palm Beach, Aruba | hiltonaruba.com | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HiltonAruba) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/HiltonAruba) [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/HiltonAruba)

BINGO IS BACK EVERY THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY!

2X *Double
Point
Tuesday!***Earn
DOUBLE POINTS
all day long!**Use your Players' Club card
to play our slots and we'll
DOUBLE your points!**Alhambra**
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.**THE SHOPS
AT ALHAMBRA CASINO**Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez CaféThe Brownstone Ribs & Seafood
Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

Documentary "Music is my life" of Mr. Rufo Wever

ORANJESTAD - On the eve of the National Anthem and Flag celebrations, we remember one of the co-composers of the "Aruba Dushi Tera" national anthem, as well as a well-accomplished musician, Mr. Rufo Wever.

The documentary "Music is my life", exposes Rufo's passion for music, his patriotism, and all his efforts to document the music of many local musicians.

Rufo was a well-accomplished musician

Over the years, Aruba had many talented musicians, and Mr. Rufo was one of the top all-around musicians. He mastered many musical instruments and was a composer, arranger, and author of many music sheets. His gift made him stand out above many other musicians of his time. Thanks to Rufo Wever, we now have music sheets of many typical songs of Aruba since it was his passion to document other musicians' work. Rufo also wrote music sheets for the Caha di Orgel and the New Year Dande.

Rufo's love for Aruba was enormous

Many of his songs had Aruba in their title. Arubanita, is one of the best-known cre-



ations of Rufo. He was also co-composer of "Aruba Dushi Tera". Together with musicians like Padu Lampe and Lio Booi, Rufo showcased the popular Aruba Dushi Tera

until it became the National Anthem of Aruba.

Documentary "Music is my life" of Mr. Rufo Wever

It was with the initiative of Rufo Wever's family, that Mrs. Vivian Wever and Mr. Norman Thijsen of Sky Television decided to produce the documentary "Music is my life"

This production will make it possible to remember Rufo Wever as an all-around musician. The music school

that bears his name should inspire the younger generations.

The documentary "Music is my life" airs on March 17, 2022, on Nos Isla TV on channel 23 and Diario TV on channel 48, starting at 7:00 pm.

The Minister of Culture, Xiomara Maduro, is grateful to the Wever family, Sky Television and everyone who made this production a reality. □



Pinchos Grill & Bar

Open: Daily
From: 5:00pm to 10:00pm
Tel.: 583-2666
Website: www.pinchosaruba.com

THE WEST DECK
ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

Open: Daily for Lunch and Dinner
From: 10:30 am to 10:00 pm
Tel.: 587-2667
Website: www.thewestdeck.com

Travellers' Choice 2020

Urgent Care vs. Emergency Room: Where should you go?

Imagine yourself arriving on the beautiful island of Aruba. You've scheduled your days with exciting activities or to relax by the beach or pool. Of course, the least you would expect is to get sick or become in need of medical assistance. Because honestly, who does that while on vacation?

But when that happens, you need to know who and where to visit. So, the first step is to assess your medical need and its urgency. At Urgent Care Aruba, we offer medical assistance for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. We accept walk-ins from Monday to Friday from 8 am to 8



URGENT CARE vs EMERGENCY ROOM

Which one should you go?

The care you need, when you need it.

Urgent Care Aruba

If you don't feel well and are suffering from:

- Colds/Flu/Fever/Cough
- Sore throat
- Ear aches
- Sprains/Strains/Simple fractures
- Scrapes/Cuts
- Minor burns
- Rashes without fever, like poison ivy/insect bites
- Nausea
- Urinary tract infections
- Back pain



Emergency Department

If your symptoms are severe life threatening or come on suddenly such as:

- Chest pain **call 911**
- Shortness of breath **call 911**
- Fainting/ Loss of consciousness/ change in vision
- Change in mental state
- Weakness on one side/ facial droop, garbled speech **call 911**
- Deep cuts/ Bleeding that won't stop
- Sudden, severe pain anywhere in the body
- High fever/ Fever with rash
- Seizures
- Severe or repeated vomiting
- Serious burns



VS



Noord 63
Noord Medical Center

CALL OR VISIT URGENT CARE ARUBA at +297 5860448, WhatsApp +297 5975549, info@urgentcare.aw, www.urgentcare.aw

pm, Saturday from 8 am to 4 pm, Sunday/Holiday from 10 am to 2 pm. Therefore, receive a better cost value than the Emergency Room

as the alternative option. Other services offered at the Urgent Care Aruba is X-Ray (Without Appointment), Ultrasound (With

Appointment), and Gynecology Services (With Appointment). Visit us to assess your symptoms, and we'll provide you

with a proper diagnosis and treatment since we will also provide you with a prescription if deemed necessary. Our mission is to have you back on your vacation; that is why we offer quick, reliable, and efficient medical service. Please view our comparison information chart: Urgent Care vs. Emergency Room. Contact us for more information at +297 5860448. WhatsApp +297 5975549, info@urgentcare.aw, or visit our website at www.urgentcare.aw or visit us at Noord 63, Noord Medical Center. Rate our service on Google!

Aruba acts to protect endangered coral reefs

ORANJESTAD — Less than a year after announcing a total ban on the use of single-use plastic, Aruba has intensified its measures to protect its endangered coral reefs. In what is claimed to be “the biggest voluntarism project” on the island over a thousand volunteers - locals and visitors alike – will congregate on the beaches of the Dutch Caribbean island for the Aruba Reef Care Project on 19 September.

The volunteers efforts to clean both snorkel and dive sites, and beaches, is now supplemented by a coral nursery, funded by Aloe Aruba, which was recently unveiled in Savaneta. Historically, Savaneta was the island's capital up to 1797. Aloe Aruba, which also produces coral-safe sunscreen, is partnering local youth diving group Scubble Bubbles, to help restore the island's coral reefs. In its effort to save the coral reefs, the nursery will be used to rehabilitate fragmented reef until it

becomes sufficiently mature to be transplanted onto the coral reef by Scubble Bubble divers. In 2017, the island's authority banned the use of all single-use plastic bags, a measure that was extended the following year to include plastic cups, straws and Styrofoam boxes. The ban will be transitioned in until 2020. At the same time, sunscreens with oxybenzone, which damage the coral, will also be banished from the island. Aruba intends to be fossil-free by the year 2020 in its continued efforts to preserve the island's natural environment and preserve its endangered coral reefs. Since 1995, the Aruba Reef Care Project has been perhaps the best known as well as largest volunteer environmental initiative on the island, raising awareness of the need to preserve the sea environment. If you are interested in volunteering for the organization, email Castro Perez at castroperez@gmail.com. If you can't make the September date, an an-

nual National Coastal Clean-Up Day is carried out each November, during which volunteers make a clean sweep of Aruba beaches.

Credits: Facebook & website Travel begins at 40

Macuto di Compras											
Supermarket/ Minimarket											
Producto	Cont.	San Nic.	Sav.	St. Cr.	Sere Bl.	T. Flip	Ponten	Ostad	Catiri	Tanki L.	Mat.
Baby clams whole - Roland	10 oz.	5.21		5.09	5.28	4.99	5.18	5.25	5.25	5.18	5.05
Picknick shrimp - Roland	7 oz.	8.53			8.39	8.45	8.68	8.50		8.40	8.25
Oysters - Roland	7.94 oz.	6.95	7.30			7.38	7.60	7.40		7.25	7.40
Carni mola - cu vet	p/kilo		13.95	9.95	13.95		12.50				10.95
Carni stoba-boneless	p/kilo		20.70	18.95	18.50						16.95
Whole wheat instant-Brinta	500 gr.	5.95	6.25								
Frost loops-Kellogg's	10, 1 oz.	9.70	9.25	9.95	10.83	10.85	11.20	9.85	5.99	5.25	6.50
Corn flakes-Kellogg's	12 oz.	10.60	10.10		8.79	8.85	9.10	10.75	9.50	8.99	8.85
Frosted flakes-Kellogg's	13.5 oz.		10.48	9.95	10.99	10.55				10.55	10.25
Crackers, salted-Dux bleki hero, blauw	16 oz.	9.38	9.30	9.15	8.99	8.99	9.30			9.35	8.99
Tallarín - Gallo	450 gr.	3.40	2.89	2.89	3.15	3.15	3.40	2.95	3.25	2.99	2.85
Tallarín - Benetti	500 gr.		2.80	2.89	2.83	2.85	2.95	2.95	2.99	2.50	2.85
Mie nestjes - Honig	500 gr.		4.40		4.28	4.99	4.75	4.50			5.30
Juice - Rice	1 liter	3.95	4.55	4.15	3.58	3.85	3.50	3.85	3.65	3.95	3.80
Cranberry/Grape juice - Ocean spray	64 oz.		9.90	10.15	9.25	9.50	9.75	9.25	9.50	9.75	3.60
Juice, for savor - Jumez	1 lt.	3.75	3.55	3.65	3.55	3.55	3.50	3.75	3.75	3.68	3.60
Orange Juice - Homemaker premium	58 oz.	9.75			9.70	9.30	9.99	9.75			9.35
Chocolate milk powder - Nesquik	200 gr.	3.65	3.30	3.55	3.91	3.50			3.75	3.38	3.75
Chocolate milk powder - Choco Liso	7.05 oz.	2.75	2.60	2.69	2.58	2.60	2.65	2.70	2.75	2.75	2.65
Raisins - Ligo	6 pack	4.10	3.90	3.99	3.93	3.94	4.07	4.15	4.35	4.15	3.95
Pineapple slices - Del Monte	15.5 oz.	4.75	4.75	4.99	4.80	5.05	4.98	5.25	5.25	4.95	4.85
Rietsteker-Caribbean Gold	500 gr.	4.44	4.35	4.95	4.26	4.25	4.41			4.45	
Baking powder - Clabber Girl	8 oz.	4.35			4.51	4.25	4.75	4.50	4.99	4.50	4.25
Chocolati - M&M's, peanut paki geel	1.74 oz.	2.00	1.95	1.99	1.99	1.85	1.75	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Chocolati - Bounty	57 gr.	2.00	1.95	1.99		1.75	1.80	2.00	1.99	2.00	2.00
Round Cake - Sara Lee, don freezer	10.75 oz.	10.94	10.15	10.15	10.45	10.25			10.50	11.99	10.25
Kit Kat - Nestle	41.5 gr.	2.50	2.25	2.25	2.68	2.65	2.00	2.35	2.35	2.25	2.50
Nuciwafer-Pirulin	92 gr.		2.09	2.93	2.99				3.75		3.25
Mentos-Chewy	38 g.	2.00	1.60	1.35	1.68	1.75	1.35	1.75	1.50	1.50	1.50
Cough drops-Hall's	9 pc.	1.75	1.95	1.85		2.00	1.95	1.85	2.25	2.00	2.00

Price comparison

ORANJESTAD - The Department of Economic Affairs regularly carries out price comparison in various supermarkets on Aruba and publishes this information in the local newspapers.

The purpose of this price observation is, among others, to give the consumer an overview of the price differences of various basic consumer goods on the island that can be purchased at different supermarkets and minimarkets throughout the island.

Every location may have a different price, with this list the different prices are compiled and showcased for a general view of the differences. In the price comparison, the fact that the quality of the products varies in the supermarkets and minimarkets is not taken into consideration.

All prices are in Aruban florins.

Liz Weston: How to keep your tax return from getting hung up

By **LIZ WESTON** of NerdWallet

There may never be a good time to draw the IRS' attention, but this year you really want to avoid extra scrutiny.

The IRS is so understaffed and overwhelmed that even a tiny mistake could delay your refund for months.

A return that requires "manual processing" — basically, any action by an IRS employee — could join a massive queue that started building at the beginning of the pandemic and has yet to be resolved. If something goes wrong, good luck getting through to a human: The IRS answered about 1 in 10 calls last year, down from about 1 in 3 before the pandemic, according to the National Taxpayer Advocate.

To avoid tax hassles, the best approach is to be careful, thorough and digital when you file your return.

DON'T FILE A PAPER RETURN OR ASK FOR A PAPER CHECK

Let's start with the basics: File electronically and request direct deposit of any refund you might be due, says April Walker, lead manager for tax practice and ethics with the American Institute of CPAs. If your income was \$73,000 or less in 2021, you can use the IRS' Free File tax preparation option.

If you file electronically, you can begin tracking the status of your refund on the IRS site within 24 hours, says CPA Lei Han, associate professor of accounting at Niagara University in Niagara Falls, New York. If you file a paper return, tracking typically won't be available for four weeks, Han says.

Paper returns don't just take longer to process, notes Kent Lugrand, president and chief executive of InTouch Credit Union in Plano, Texas.

Paper returns are also much more likely to contain errors — either that a taxpayer made or that an IRS employee introduced while transferring the data

from a paper return into the agency's computer system. Electronic filing, by contrast, won't let you file a

MATCH

The IRS' automated matching system looks for discrepancies between the

sending corrected forms a month or so later. If you rely on the preliminary form, you may end up having

PROPERLY REPORT CHILD TAX CREDIT AND STIMULUS PAYMENTS

Your return also could be derailed by a mismatch between the child tax credit or stimulus payments you report versus what the IRS says you got last year, Walker says.

Taxpayers who received monthly child tax credit payments in 2021 will have to reconcile those payments with the amount for which they were actually eligible.

The IRS based the payments on income data from a prior year, so some families may have received too much while others will qualify for additional money when they file their returns, Han says. In addition, eligible people who didn't receive the third stimulus payment, or who qualified for more than they got, can claim the recovery rebate credit on this year's tax return.

In January, the IRS began sending out notices to taxpayers who had received payments in 2021: Letter 6475 summarized how much stimulus money the taxpayer got, while Letter 6419 reported total advance child tax credit payments.

If you're married and received the payments, you likely received two letters about the child tax payments — one for each spouse, Walker says.

If your family has one child and received \$300 a month for six months for a total of \$1,800, for example, you typically would get two IRS letters, each reporting \$900.

"Some people thought the second letter was a duplicate, and so they might have thrown it away," Walker says.

If you're missing any of this paperwork, don't just rely on your memory or your bank records, Walker says. You can create an account on the IRS site and view IRS records to find the correct figures.

"If you just wing it on that number, it's probably going to cause a delay," Walker says. □



return with many common mistakes such as mathematical errors or failing to sign your return. You have to fix those before you can submit the return, Lugrand says.

E-filing software may not detect other problems, such as incorrect Social Security, bank routing or bank account numbers, so check all numbers carefully, Walker recommends.

MAKE SURE YOUR NUMBERS

income you report and forms filed by your employer and financial institutions. A mismatch can cause the agency to freeze your refund and trigger a notice demanding more information.

If you invest outside a retirement account, beware: Brokerages are notorious for sending out "preliminary" 1099-B forms — which track investors' gains and losses — to meet the IRS mid-February deadline, and then

to file an amended return, which would have to be manually processed and could delay your refund for months.

Sometimes the W-2 or 1099 forms you get contain errors. If that's the case, try to get the error corrected and the form reissued before you file, Han recommends. Consider filing an extension if you need more time to get the issue resolved, she says.

CROSSWORD

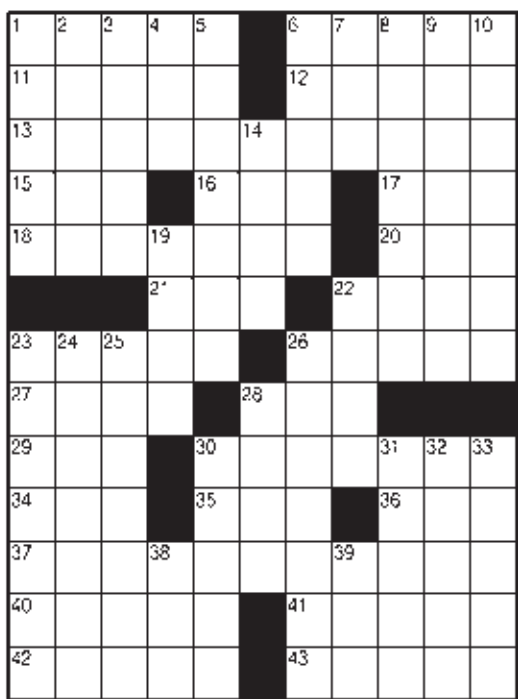
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Pick up the tab
 - 1 In the lead
 - 6 Viking of the comics
 - 11 Sheriff's group
 - 12 Dancer Castle
 - 13 Parts of some phones
 - 15 Part of Mao's name
 - 16 One, for Juan
 - 17 Tire track
 - 18 Remits
 - 20 Like Pride Parade participants
 - 21 Queue after Q
 - 22 Jack's friend
 - 23 Spread out
 - 26 Tenant's form
 - 27 Beach crawler
 - 28 Big snake
 - 29 Hold up
 - 30 Limo service vehicle
 - 34 Rink material
 - 35 Hoppy brew
 - 36 Musician Yoko
 - 37 Wild influence

- DOWN**
- 1 Scheduled mtgs.
 - 2 Congress half
 - 3 German steel city
 - 4 Fire result
 - 5 "La Mer" composer
 - 6 Think up
 - 7 Trickery
 - 8 Nation on the Black Sea
 - 9 Some flowers
 - 10 Give a new look to
 - 14 Mile or meter
 - 19 Lackluster
 - 22 Stapleton of "All in the Family"
 - 23 Agents read them
 - 24 Get
 - 25 Placed a tag on
 - 26 Brought down
 - 28 Nut's partner
 - 30 Critical asset
 - 31 Jay's follower
 - 32 Uneasy feeling
 - 33 Valentine's gift
 - 38 Fall behind
 - 39 Rage



Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

XW GDS ADDO IMP ZXHMI
LBG, GDS YBR FPP IMBI IMP
LMDAP LDZAV XF B HBZVPR
WZBRYPF MDVHFDR

QSZRPII

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SOMETIMES I'VE BELIEVED AS MANY AS SIX IMPOSSIBLE THINGS BEFORE BREAKFAST. — LEWIS CARROLL

Kuwait, among world's hottest places, lags on climate action



A woman feeds stray cats at the marina in Kuwait City, Feb. 11, 2022.

Associated Press

By ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

JAHRA, Kuwait (AP) — It was so hot in Kuwait last summer that birds dropped dead from the sky.

Sea horses boiled to death in the bay. Dead clams coated the rocks, their shells popped open like they'd been steamed.

Kuwait reached a scorching temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius (127.7 degrees Fahrenheit), making it among the hottest places on earth.

The extremes of climate change present existential perils all over the world. But the record heat waves that roast Kuwait each season have grown so severe that people increasingly find it unbearable.

By the end of the century, scientists say being outside in Kuwait City could be life-threatening — not only to birds. A recent study also linked 67% of heat-related deaths in the capital to climate change.

And yet, Kuwait remains among the world's top oil producers and exporters, and per capita is a significant polluter. Mired in political paralysis, it stayed silent

as the region's petrostates joined a chorus of nations setting goals to eliminate emissions at home — though not curb oil exports — ahead of last fall's U.N. climate summit in Glasgow. Instead, Kuwait's prime minister offered a years-old promise to cut emissions by 7.4% by 2035.

"We are severely under threat," said environmental consultant Samia Alduaij. "The response is so timid it doesn't make sense."

Racing to burnish their climate credentials and diversify their economies, Saudi Arabia pitches futuristic car-free cities and Dubai plans to ban plastic and multiply the emirate's green parks.

While the relatively small populations of oil-rich Gulf Arab states mean their pledges to cut emissions are minor in the grand scheme to limit global warming, they have symbolic significance.

Yet the gears of government in Kuwait, population 4.3 million, seem as stuck as ever — partly because of populist pressure in parliament, and partly because the same authorities that

regulate Kuwait's emissions get nearly all of their revenue from pumping oil.

"The government has the money, the information and the manpower to make a difference," said lawmaker Hamad al-Matar, director of the parliamentary environmental committee. "It doesn't care about environmental issues."

The country continues to burn oil for electricity and ranks among the top global carbon emitters per capita, according to the World Resources Institute. As asphalt melts on highways, Kuwaitis bundle up for bone-chilling air-conditioning in malls. Renewable energy accounts for less than 1% of demand — far below Kuwait's target of 15% by 2030.

An hour drive outside the dingy suburbs of Jahra, wind turbines and solar panels rise from clouds of sand — the fruit of Kuwait's energy transition ambitions. □

Classifieds

House For Sale

San Minquel Noord

3 Bedroom 2 bath with pool
5 min drive to best beaches
In world near all top restaurant and

Supermarket

Price : \$ 475 K

Call : 011-297-630-1307

johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House For Sale

Palm beach

3 Bedroom , 2 1/2 Bath
Pool and garage
5 min walk from famous palm beach

Price : \$650 K

Call : 011-297-630-1307

johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House For sale

Savaneta near Zeerover

3 BR 2 bath on a property land
5 min walk from the water

Price : \$ 220 K

Call : 011-297-630-1307

johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Honey Dolls
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

+297 565-9535

WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM

24/7

Classifieds

HTTA

Are you looking to sell your time share in Aruba ?
Contact us local experts now for 37 years giving wonderful service
In a wonderful way
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.com

HTTA

Looking to Buy
weeks at Marriott
Surf and Ocean Club
All size and view and season
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Renaissance Ocean Suites
Private Islands
1 BR DLX week 10 and 11
Room # 2353 Ocean Front
Price :\$10 K each
1 BR DLX week 14
Room # 2348 Ocean Front
Price :\$ 10 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Renaissance ocean Suites
Private Islands
1 BR Week 14 room # 2348
1 BR Week 14 room # 2521
1 BR Week 14 room # 2541
1 BR Week 15 room # 2111
Price :\$8 K each
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

La Quita Beach resort
Eagle beach
2 BR town house week #9
Room # 212 Ocean View
Price :\$11 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Casa Del Mar
Eagle beach
1 BR Week 9/10
Room # 1329 \$9K each
2 BR week 9/10
Room # 1302 \$17 K each
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Aruba Divi Phoenix
Palm beach
1 Bedroom 2 bath
Week # 13 room #763
26 weeks remain
Price :15 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village
Eagle Beach
Studio week 13 room # 6206
Studio week 14 room # 6205
20 weeks remain on each
Price :\$7 K each
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Dutch Village
Eagle beach
Studio week 12 room #33
30 weeks remain
Price : \$ 9 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village
Eagle beach
2 BR 2 bath week 13
Room # 3512
29 weeks remain all accelerated
Expire :2036
Price :\$10 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village
Eagle beach
1 BR floating weeks
Platinum F-Building
14 weeks remain
Price : \$ 6 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Condo For Sale

Tierra Del Sol
Golf 24 hour security
3 Bedroom 2 1/2 bath
Ocean view with garage
Price : \$ 475 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Le Vent

Eagle Beach
3 Bedroom , 3 bath
Ground floor \$ 870 K
2 Bedroom , 2 Bath
Ground floor \$ 675 K
2 Bedroom , 2 bath
Top floor \$ 990 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Azure Beach Residences

Eagle Beach
3 Bedroom 3 bath
Pool / view
Price : \$ 1,050,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Blue Residences

Eagle Beach
2 Bedroom , 2 Bath
Beach view
Price : \$ 699K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Acqua condominium Aruba

Palm Beach
2 Bedroom , 2 bath
Pool view
Price : \$ 650 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Pearl Aruba condos

Eagle beach
2 bedroom , 2 bath
Pool / view
Price : \$ 369 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For Sale by Owner

Caribbean Palm Village Resort
Wk 50-2BR/28th, \$1,900
Wks 51&52-2BR/28th, \$2,900
Wks 51&52-1BR/2Bth, \$1,900
Wk 52-1BR/2Bth, \$2,500
Wk 11-2BR/2Bth, \$1,900
Wk 12-1 BR/2Bth, \$1,200
Wk 13-2 BR/2Bth, \$1,300
Contact:
sales.aruba@hotmail.com

215060

For Sale by Owner

Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino
Weeks 2,3,4
Two Bedroom Suite
Unit #3508
\$12,950.00 per wk
Contact
sales.aruba@hotmail.com

215098

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 2/1113 (17k);
Week 5/1315 (19k);
Week 8/1113 (18k);
Week 8/1409 (18k);
Week 9/1218 (16k);
Week 10/1207 (16k);
Week 13/1509 (13k);
Week 14/1308 (13k);
Week 15/1217 (10k).
CDMOwner@gmail.com
U.S. Cell: (860)992-3890

214832



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Pilar Flores

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Richard Brooks

Sales

Liza Koolman

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists

Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22

T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
del Pueblo Tel. 582 1253
San Nicolas:
San Lucas Tel. 584 5119

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Ari Wegner: The other woman behind 'The Power of the Dog'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

Next week, Ari Wegner could make Oscar history. The 37-year-old Australian has a very good shot at being the first woman to win an Academy Award for best cinematography for helping create the indelible images of "The Power of the Dog" alongside director Jane Campion. Together, Campion and Wegner battled the extreme conditions of the New Zealand landscape to transport audiences to a desolate ranch in 1920s Montana and create an unforgettable piece about human fragility. Some of the images, like a shot of two actors silhouetted through a barn door, are the kinds that aspiring filmmakers are already studying.

And they might have never met were it not for an Australian bank commercial. Campion, an Oscar-winning auteur, had never done a commercial before, but she said yes to that one and hit it off with the young cinematographer. Yet it was still an adrenaline rush for Wegner to get a call from Campion a few years later about a potential project to adapt Thomas Savage's 1967 book. She went out that day, bought it and read it.

Wegner was already making a name for herself with work on films like "Lady Macbeth" and "Zola." But



This image released by Netflix shows cinematographer Ari Wegner, left, with producer-director Jane Campion on the set of "The Power of the Dog."

while the visual languages of the films were distinct and impactful, they did have one thing in common: They were all lower budget, independent fare. "The Power of the Dog" was in a different league and not just because of Campion's involvement. Here they would have the backing of Netflix. The streaming company gave Campion a budget that she'd never had the chance to work with before. "It was like working with the Medicis," Campion said.

Wegner and Campion got a year of prep to drive around New Zealand, scout locations, learn about the

landscape and discuss every aspect of the film, from small technical details to the themes and values they wanted to communicate. "I had read about other filmmakers having these dream pre-productions. I thought, well, that's something that happens to other people," Wegner said. "But I had an instinct that with more time that there was another level of filmmaking out there. And that was definitely the case." They got to know the conditions on New Zealand's South Island so that when it came time to shoot they knew what they'd be working with. But there were still

challenges of shooting in the valley, which is one of the windiest places on the island.

"I can only relate it to skiing on a sunny day when the sun's coming down and it's also bouncing up at you. The air is even intense," Wegner said. "It is a really hard environment to think creatively in because a lot of the time you are just trying to keep your eyes open." Every morning, they'd prep inside over tea and toast before heading out to brave the elements because, "It's hard to come up with a plan from scratch when your body is under assault."

And yet, the part of the shoot that Wegner was most anxious about was the interiors. She worried about creating an authentic environment in a big, sterile warehouse in Auckland worthy of a Campion film.

"In the end, it turned into one of the greatest joys of starting with a completely blank slate and being able to control absolutely everything," Wegner said. "It was a real playground."

Shooting the exteriors first was a blessing, too. She was more aware of when something felt off, like when the air was too still or clear or the light not wild enough to match the conditions in the valley, and they could adjust appropriately.

Wegner was always open to inspiration in the moment, too, like when the clouds would part perfectly and the mountains looked great. She was conscious of being attuned to "the possibility of some really beautiful iconic frames." Campion invited her collaborators to seize on unplanned opportunities, one of which happened to be the shot in the barn, which they captured after they'd shot the scene. Wegner said Campion created a "spell of calm" on the set that allowed for improvisations.

"When you're with her, the seconds on the clock kind of tick slower," Wegner said. □

Associated Press



An electric vehicle charging station is pictured on March 21, 2022, in Asbury Park, N.J.

Associated Press

By **WAYNE PARRY**
Associated Press
ASBURY PARK, N.J. (AP) —

A wave of new electric vehicle charging stations across the country is com-

As gas prices rise, towns add electric car charging stations

ing as interest in alternatives to gasoline-powered vehicles is on the rise and could heighten further due to a global spike in gasoline prices.

Though most of the plans were in the works before already high gas prices surged because of the war in Ukraine, the timing may work in favor of electric vehicle makers and other proponents of ditching fossil fuels.

From coast to coast, cities big and small are adding charging stations for

electric vehicles. Strong demand is forecast for the vehicles, despite their higher prices and limited availability, meaning even more communities will feel pressure to add charging stations or risk having motorists pass them by in favor of plug-in-friendly places. The publicly funded investments come as gasoline prices in most of the country are above \$4 a gallon and significantly more in some spots. On Monday, New Jersey officials awarded \$1 million in

grants to install electric vehicle charging stations in 24 tourist areas around the state. The idea was to help spur tourism by reassuring visitors who own electric vehicles that they can come to a vacation spot in New Jersey and not run out of power to get back home. "Don't worry about it," said Joseph Fiordaliso, president of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. "We have the equipment here so that you don't have to have range anxiety." □

NCAAs: Coach K's farewell tour extended through next weekend

By JIM LITKE

AP Sports Columnist

Mike Krzyzewski's farewell tour was this close to over.

Duke trailed Michigan State 70-65 with 5:10 left to play Sunday and there was next to nothing he could do about it.

"I'm an Army guy," recalled Krzyzewski, who played for Bobby Knight at West Point and started his coaching career there. "But it looked like our ship was sinking."

From the moment in June when Krzyzewski announced his 42nd season would be his last, it was bound to be all about him. And really, how could it be otherwise? Coaches have always been the enduring stars of the college game and no one since John Wooden lit up the firmament like Coach K.

Now imagine being a kid in a Blue Devils uniform and watching that light flicker. "We can either lay down," freshman Paolo Banchero recalled thinking, "or turn it up."

Duke responded with a 20-6 run the rest of the way. The 6-foot-10 Banchero steam-rolled Michigan State's Joey Hauser on a drive to the biggest bucket of the night for a 75-74 lead. Jeremy Roach followed with a 3-pointer to stretch the lead to four with 1:16 left. Krzyzewski won't officially



Duke's Paolo Banchero (5) hugs head coach Mike Krzyzewski after a win over Michigan State in a college basketball game in the second round of the NCAA tournament Sunday, March 20, 2022, in Greenville, S.C.

become a spectator until this one last run through the NCAA Tournament ends with a loss, but he's already learning to enjoy the view. "You guys were terrific, man," Krzyzewski told the players sitting alongside him after Duke notched an 85-76 win over the Spartans to advance to the Sweet 16 and a matchup with Texas Tech. "I'm so — I'm really proud to be your coach." Coach K has been hoarse since the tournament started, but he insisted on making a point. "It had nothing to do with coaching in

those last four or five minutes," he said. "It all had to do with heart and togetherness."

That might be overstating the case, since talent is a more reliable measure of success than emotion. But not in every case.

Just ask 10th-seeded Miami, which handcuffed Auburn's Jabari Smith and Walker Kessler — both likely NBA lottery picks — en route to the day's biggest upset, a 79-61 beatdown of the No. 2 Tigers.

"It's the first time that we got it handed to us," Au-

burn coach Bruce Pearl said. "We didn't know how to respond."

Or for that matter, 11th-seeded Iowa State, which tipped No. 3 Wisconsin 54-49 in Milwaukee, just a fast hour's drive from the Badgers' campus in Madison. Wisconsin had Johnny Davis, the Big Ten player of the year, a hard-earned reputation for taking care of the ball — a nation-low average of 8.4 turnovers per game — and a frenzied crowd behind it.

But the Badgers ominously gave the ball away eight

times in the first half alone and didn't shoot much better. Davis was 0 for 7 from 3-point range and his teammates weren't much better, just 2 for 15.

"Shot the ball uncharacteristically poor today. Turned the ball over. We're No. 1 in the country in fewest turnovers. Today," coach Greg Gard summed up, "we were not."

If it's any consolation, two more Big Ten teams joined the Badgers in heading for the exit.

Seventh-seeded Ohio State pulled within 60-58 of No. 2 Villanova with just under six minutes left and then went colder than cold. Instead of panicking, the Wildcats got two turnovers and cranked up the defense, pulling away to a 71-61 victory as the Buckeyes missed six of their final seven shots from the floor.

Coach Jay Wright has been quietly building a Coach K-caliber program, having won national championships in both 2016 and 2018. That kind of continuity pays dividends.

"This is what happens when you play great teams and it's happened to you before, and you can fight through it. If you haven't done it, it's hard, you can panic," Wright said. "But all these guys have been there." □

Associated Press

Warriors' Curry expects to return by start of playoffs

By JOE STIGLICH

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Stephen Curry said he's confident he can return from a sprained left foot by the time the Golden State Warriors begin the playoffs.

The two-time league MVP wore a white boot on his foot Sunday as he addressed reporters for the first time since leaving Golden State's game Wednesday night after a collision with Boston's Marcus Smart.

With 12 games left in the regular season, Curry was asked if he felt he would

be on the floor for the Warriors' first playoff game.

"Yeah, we've got enough time for that ... but I'm an optimist," he said before Golden State's game against San Antonio.

Curry and Smart were going after a loose ball when Smart dove for it and crashed into Curry's leg. The play had Warriors coach Steve Kerr yelling at Smart from the sideline as Curry headed for the locker room.

"He didn't try to hurt me," Curry said. "There's a certain way he plays. I don't think many other people would have made the

play he did, but I don't think it was malicious or dirty."

Curry was walking awkwardly in the boot Sunday. He said he's doing what he can in the weight room to stay in shape. By next week, he hopes to be back on the court doing some basketball activity but added that a cautious approach is necessary.

"From what I'm told, just in terms of ligaments around the injury and the bone that's underneath there, you want to not rush the beginning phases of healing because that's when you get the most progress,"



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry talks to the media about his injury before an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs in San Francisco, Sunday, March 20, 2022.

Associated Press

Curry said. "Then, when you do put the shoe back on and get back on the court and get reps, you're

not dealing with crazy soreness or anything." The Warriors are third in the Western Conference. □

AP source: Colts get QB Matt Ryan in trade with Falcons

BY MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts may have found another short-term answer at quarterback by trading for Matt Ryan. How much longer the soon-to-be 37-year-old, four-time Pro Bowler sticks around isn't clear.

On Monday, Indy acquired the 2016 league MVP from Atlanta for a third-round pick in this year's draft (No. 82 overall,) a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade had not been announced.

The Falcons wasted no time finding Ryan's replacement — announcing they'd signed free agent Marcus Mariota to a two-year contract.

For Indy, the deal completes a two-week search for a successor to Carson Wentz, who was traded to the Washington Commanders after just one season with the Colts. For Colts general manager Chris Ballard, it's also the latest attempt to plug a hole created by Andrew Luck's surprise retirement at age 29 just before the start of the 2018 season.

Ryan will become the sixth quarterback to start in Week 1 for the Colts in six years, adding his name to a list that already is comprised of Scott Tolzien, Luck, Jacoby Brissett, Philip Rivers and Wentz. He joins a fran-



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan (2) throws during the first half of an NFL football game against the New Orleans Saints, Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

chise whose vice chairman Bill Polian once said he considered Ryan the most similar player in the league to Peyton Manning.

"You've got to be right (at quarterback) and even if you're not right, you've got to keep firing away until you get it right," Ballard said during the NFL's annual scouting combine. "We've got to get it right."

The deal also makes something else clear: The Falcons are entering rebuild mode.

Shortly after the Falcons made a highly publicized but failed bid to acquire Houston quarterback Deshaun Watson last week, it became clear Ryan did not

want to return to a team where he had played his entire NFL career and then openly tried to replace him. Watson supposedly narrowed his potential choices for a trade to New Orleans and Atlanta — with speculation the Falcons were the favorite since Watson is a Georgia native. But he changed his mind and accepted a \$230 million, fully guaranteed deal with the Cleveland Browns who sent three first-round picks to the Texans in the deal.

Ryan is undoubtedly the greatest quarterback in Falcons history, the No. 3 overall pick in 2008 who stepped in to replace Michael Vick. He steadied a

franchise rocked by coach Bobby Petrino's departure after 13 games and Vick's imprisonment for running a dogfighting ring.

With Ryan running the offense, the Falcons rebounded from a 4-12 mark in 2007 to make the playoffs in 2008 — the first of five consecutive winning seasons and three postseason trips. Until Ryan's arrival, Atlanta had never even managed back-to-back winning seasons since joining the NFL as an expansion team in 1966. After several down years for the team, Ryan turned in his greatest season in 2016, throwing for a career-best 4,944 yards with 38 touchdowns. Atlanta ap-

peared headed for its first Super Bowl crown when it took a 28-3 lead over the New England Patriots by late in the third quarter only to see Tom Brady engineer the greatest comeback in title game history for a 34-28 overtime victory.

What the Colts are getting in Ryan is a model of consistency — something they've lacked following the retirements of Luck and Rivers and the departures of Tolzien, Brissett and Wentz. Ryan has two seasons left on his current contract and the Colts are well-positioned to absorb the salary cap hits each season.

Ryan posted 10 straight seasons with more than 4,000 passing yards until just missing the mark last year with 3,968. He's thrown for at least 20 touchdowns every year of his career, totaling 367 in his career with 170 interceptions. And he has only missed three starts in his 14-year career.

His 59,735 career passing yards are No. 8 in NFL history, and he will likely pass Dan Marino (61,361) for the No. 7 spot on the list next season.

Even though the Falcons made one more playoff appearance with Ryan, in 2017, they never seemed to recover from the stunning collapse on the NFL's biggest stage. Atlanta has endured four straight losing seasons, including a 7-10 mark last year, and is clearly in rebuilding mode. □



Sam Burns poses with the trophy after winning the Valspar Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 20, 2022, at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Associated Press

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

Sam Burns withdrew from

the Dell Match Play on Monday, one day after outlasting Davis Riley in a

Burns withdraws from Match Play as groups set for Austin

playoff to become a back-to-back winner at the Valspar Championship.

The 64-man field at Austin Country Club will be missing four players from the top 12 in the world ranking. Cameron Smith (6) withdrew after winning The Players Championship, Hideki Matsuyama (12) is recovering from an upper back injury and Rory McIlroy (8) previously said he plans to play the Valero Texas Open as his final event before the Masters.

Burns moved to No. 10 in the world with his victory in Florida. He was replaced in the field in Texas by Maverick McNealy. The field is determined by the world ranking from a week ago. Three players moved into the top 64 from their performance last week — Shaun Norris and Dean Burmester in South Africa, Stewart Cink at Innisbrook — but are not eligible.

The 16 groups were finalized Monday, each group filled randomly with one player

from the top 16 seeds, one from Nos. 17 to 32, one from Nos. 33 to 48, and one from Nos. 49 to 64. The winner of each group after round-robin play advances to the knockout stage. Jon Rahm is the No. 1 seed and will start Wednesday by playing Sebastian Munoz, the second straight year they squared off on the first day. Bryson DeChambeau is playing for the first time since he withdrew from the Saudi International with injuries. □